THE INVENTION CLAIMED IS:

1. A computer-implemented method of secure installation of vendor's software patches on client's systems, comprising the steps of:

   - determining which of said software patches should be applied to said client's systems

   - collecting said software patches from said vendors by downloading them from said vendor's ftp sites

   - distributing said software patches to said client's systems

   - installing said software patches

2. The computer-implemented method of secure installation of vendor's software patches on client's systems of claim 1, include steps of:

   - determining which software patches should be applied to said client's systems

   - collecting said software patches from said vendors by downloading them from said vendor's ftp sites

   - distributing said software patches to said client's systems

   - Interpreting which files will be affected by the installation of said software patches

   - interpreting which directories will be affected by the installation of said software patches

   - installing said software patches

3. The computer-implemented method of secure installation of vendor's software patches on client's systems of claim 1, include steps of:

- determining which software patches should be applied to said client's systems

- collecting said software patches from said vendors by downloading them from said vendor's ftp site

- distributing said software patches to said client's systems

- interpreting which files and directories will be affected by the installation of said software patches

- interpreting how much memory and disk space is needed to install software upgrades and installing said software patches

4. The computer-implemented method of secure installation of vendor's software patches on client's systems of claim 1, include steps of:

- determining which software patches should be applied to said client's systems

- collecting said software patches from said vendors by downloading them from said vendor's ftp sites

- distributing said software patches to paid client's systems

- interpreting the operating system type, version and architecture said software patches apply to

- interpreting which files and directories will be affected by the installation of said software patches

- interpreting how much memory and disk space is needed to install said software patches
- interpreting dependencies on other layered products
- installing said software patches

5. The computer-implemented method of secure installation of vendor's software patches on client's systems of claim 1, include steps of:

- determining which software patches should be or should have been applied to said client's systems
- collecting said software patches from said vendors by downloading them from said vendor's ftp sites
- distributing said software patches to said client's systems
- interpreting the operating system type, version and architecture said software patches apply to
- interpreting which files and directories are affected by the installation of said software patches
- interpreting how much memory and disk space is needed to install said software patches
- interpreting dependencies on other layered products
- installing said software patches
- backing-out said software patches that have been applied to said client's systems

6. A computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches to client's systems, comprising:

- determining which of vendor's upgrades and patches have been applied to client's systems

- determining which said software upgrades and patches should be or should have been applied to said clients systems

7. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 6, include:

- collection of said patches and upgrades from said vendor's and downloading said patches and upgrades to client systems

8. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- interpreting the operating system type

9. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- interpreting the operating system version

10. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- interpreting the operating system architecture the patch applies to

11. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- determining how much memory is needed to install said patch and upgrades

12. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- determining how dependencies on other layered products affect the installation of said patches and upgrades

13. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- determining how dependencies on other patches, or software upgrades affect the installation of a patch

14. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- determining how dependencies on other software upgrades affect the installation of a patch

15. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- determining which files will be affected by the installation of a patch

16. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- determining which directories will be affected by the installation of a patch

17. The computer-implemented method of secure distribution of vendor's upgrades and patches of claim 7, include the step of:

- Checking the permissions and ownership of the files referenced in the patch and ensuring that the system software is authentic